

1-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A method of displaying a soft key label set on a telephone having a display monitor, the method comprising:

storing a plurality of soft key label sets wherein one of the plurality of the soft key label sets has ~~an application a function~~ in a particular context and includes a plurality of text strings text string;

retrieving the one of the plurality of the soft key label sets based on the particular context from a call manager object ~~which resides outside the telephone;~~ and

displaying the one of the plurality of the soft key label sets on the display such that ~~each the text string from the plurality of text strings~~ corresponds to a physical button on the telephone, and;

changing the one of the plurality of the soft key label sets to another of the plurality of the soft key label sets when the context changes.

wherein, while the ~~text strings are one of the plurality of the soft key label sets is being~~ changed, ~~the one of the plurality of the soft key label sets is deactivated~~ the physical button is deactivated.

14. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 13 wherein an index is invoked by one of a line handler object and a call plane object.

15. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 13 wherein a valid mask is invoked by one of a line handler object and a call plane object.

16. (original) A method as recited in claim 13 wherein a subset of the plurality of soft key labels is stored remotely.

17. (original) A method as recited in claim 13 further comprising using an index to retrieve a soft key label set wherein a value for the index is determined based on the particular context.

18. (original) A method as recited in claim 17 further comprising invalidating one or more text strings in a soft key label set using a valid mask associated with the index.

19. (original) A method as recited in claim 13 further comprising determining the particular context the telephone is in at any given time during its operation.

20. (original) A method as recited in claim 19 further comprising examining a database associated with the telephone to determine the particular context of the telephone.

21-24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium containing programmed instructions arranged to display a soft key label set on a telephone having a display monitor, the computer-readable medium including programmed instructions for:

storing a plurality of soft key label sets wherein one of the plurality of the soft key label sets has ~~an application~~ a function in a particular context and includes ~~a plurality of text strings~~ text string;

retrieving the one of the plurality of the soft key label sets based on the particular context from a call manager object ~~which resides outside the telephone~~; and

displaying the one of the plurality of the soft key label sets on the display such that each ~~the text string from the plurality of text strings~~ corresponds to a physical button on the telephone, and;

changing the one of the plurality of the soft key label sets to another of the plurality of the soft key label sets when the context changes.

wherein, while the ~~text strings are one of the plurality of the soft key label sets~~ is being changed, ~~the one of the plurality of the soft key label sets is deactivated~~ the physical button is deactivated.

26-28. (canceled)